

# THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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## The Bell Ringer Looks Back At The New Exam Schedule

by Brian Swenson

Features Editor

assisted by Dalton Fouts and Pat Killian

For the first time in MBA history, first semester exams were given prior to the winter break. One may suppose that the reactions would be quite negative, as change is difficult for anyone to undergo. Responses, however, generally did not follow that assumption.

Pat Killian and Dalton Fouts assisted me in compiling a rudimentary

poll of 127 seniors, juniors, and sophomores, which provided interesting results.

This chart clearly shows that only a 21% minority of students were resistant to accepting the new exam schedule. Furthermore, when some students were again contacted after the exam period, most of the ones who had reacted unfavorably changed their minds, after enjoying the carefree winter break.

Of the students who reacted favorably, most were happy to not have the burden of exams looming after Winter Break. For example, sophomore Denzel Caldwell said, "I was able to perform better because I remembered the material reviewed before the break."

The reasons for students reacting

unfavorably were not quite as uniform, but the reasons were articulated well by senior Corey Metzman, who added, "I dislike the thought of a long second semester. It feels as though teachers have been forced to eliminate review time."

Mr. Gioia, who has obviously been a major player in these changes, provided additional data to support the new schedule.

Mr. Gioia believes that the exam period went extremely well, as shown by another survey of 300 conducted by Mr. Coverstone, which showed that 80% of the respondents had a very positive feeling, generally because they enjoy finishing up their work before winter break.

Their survey also showed, however, that only a slim majority of faculty members supported the change, which increased some after the period had ended. Mrs. Qian particularly likes the new schedule because she is looking forward to being able to focus on the Mathcounts team rather than exams in the beginning of the third quarter.

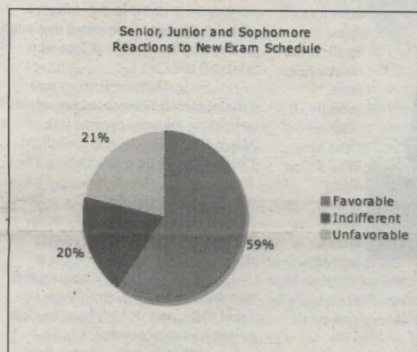
"Change is always an issue to deal with," said Mr. Gioia, "and there are

certain anxieties with doing anything new, but most people figured out how to deal with this adjustment."

It turned out that the grades for juniors and seniors were not as high as the grades for those same students last year, but this could have been caused by any number of variables. This same development did not occur for students in the younger grades, who improved their exam grades. Perhaps the older students just did not realize how fast exams would actually arrive, while the younger students are more flexible, not having had post-holiday exams for the last five or six years.

"The break has allowed me to analyze the exams more, and we can learn how to make exams more productive through this period," said Mr. Gioia.

A four-day break in February will help break up the long third quarter, but students and teachers will need to adjust to this new schedule for the long haul, for Mr. Gioia has indicated that this same schedule will be in effect next year as well.



## Big Red Basketball Team Forced to Overcome Adversity

by Taylor Colbert

Staff Writer

When Coach Kevin Anglin formed his varsity basketball team this year, he knew that his team was only returning one starter, but he could not have envisioned how inexperienced his starting line-up would turn out to be.

On most nights, the Big Red will trot out only one player who even got minutes last year on the varsity team. The lone returning starter is the floor general for the Big Red, senior William Davis. The only other varsity player from last year is defensive stopper Alfonza Knight.

The lack of experience has forced Coach Anglin to look to younger kids or other guys who did not play basketball last year to fill out his roster.

The junior and sophomore classes have both stepped up and played a large role in the rotation so far this year. Sophomore Holden Mobley is night in

and night out one of the leading scorers. Other sophomores, like Tyler Paslick and Luke Colbert, have played meaningful minutes for the varsity basketball team.

Many other players, like Joseph Sloan, Austin Bennett, and Nathan Wade, who were either injured or just chose not to play last year, have stepped into the starting line-up and have really contributed despite their year-long lay-off.

The senior class has also adopted their accustomed role of providing leadership for the younger guys throughout the challenging start of the season, where the team saw tough opponents like Wilson Central, Dickson County, and arch-rival Father Ryan. One example of this leadership can be seen in senior Carlton Baker, who held a players-only meeting to help focus the team for the rest of the season as more division

games approach.

The Big Red has played close to .500 ball with victories over Ezell-Harding, Culleoka High School, Knoxville Webb, Battle Ground Academy, White House-Heritage High School, and Portland High School.

And while the players are not exactly ecstatic about how they have

opened the season to date, they all believe that they have started to get everyone on the same page, according to senior forward, Austin Bennett, who believes "we've had a decent start, but we're looking to step it up now that we're

together. That's all that matters. Coach tells us this everyday, and when we show up to play as a unit, success is a result. Our main focus is to maintain this goal with consistency."

Coach Anglin will have his hands full, as he tries to find the right mixture of his inexperienced guys with some of the proven seniors to produce a



Austin Bennett returns to the court after a year off

playing more region games."

And in order to "step it up," the squad will be relying on key seniors like point guard, William Davis. He believes that the biggest factor for success for the Big Red this season is "competing

really balanced basketball team that plays some solid defense and a patient offense. With this correct balance, look for the Big Red to challenge for the region crown, one of the goals for this team.





## THE BELL RINGER

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# MBA Science Department Discusses Global Warming

by Seth Akers-Campbell  
Staff Writer

2007 was certainly an amazing year for the science community. New, embryo-free techniques were developed in the stem cell research field. New planets were discovered in distant galaxies. An old planet lost its position among the celestial big boys. New fossils and species were discovered. The earth heated up a bit. Or did it?

This year was also a breakthrough year for the confusing and controversial topic of global warming. Because of their promotion of global warming awareness, Tennessee Al Gore shared the Nobel Peace Prize with the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Yet some refuse to believe that global warming exists at all. I have had a recent conversation with several people who have described that in the '70s people thought we were having "global cooling" and that another ice age was imminent. Many seem to believe that global warming exists, but

that humans and the carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons, and nitrogen oxide ("NOx") that we constantly are putting in the atmosphere are having little or no effect on the grand scheme of things.

But we cannot forget that here at MBA we have a highly respected scientific community.

We have a excellent science building and a superior science department. We have seen top scientists come and speak at our assemblies, most recently Dr. Michael "The Man Who Killed Pluto" Brown. Last year, every member of the MBA



Gore's hands express warmth

community received *The Weather Makers*, Tim Flannery's book on climate change and man's part in it.

A recent poll of our MBA Science Department shows that 88% of the science teachers polled believe that global warming exists. However, only 71% of those who believe that global warming exists believe that humans are at least partially responsible. Biology and Environmental Science teacher Mr. Pruitt trusts the Intergovernmental



Mr. Chenery exudes coolness

Panel on Climate Change's report where, in Mr. Pruitt's words, there is an "80% chance" that global warming is real.

One non-believer proposed an experiment to confirm the nonexistence of the human effect on global warming. He proposes that you go swim in the ocean and "see who cools off first."

Mr. Chenery, Biology and Environmental Science teacher, seems to hold the majority opinion here at MBA. But, going beyond the hill, Mr. Chenery has written an article in *The Tennessean* on climate change, TVA, the Kyoto Protocol, and, of course, Al Gore. The article suggests using "clean coal" to solve many of our environmental problems.

Other MBA teachers suggest new ways to combat our reliance on fossil fuels, such as hydrogen, nuclear power, and solar power.

Mr. Chenery suggests that we not focus all our efforts on climate change, but turn our attention to more pressing and less scientific problems like global health and poverty.

His article can be found at <http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071119/OPINION03/711190381/1097> on *The Tennessean* website.

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## The Changing Scene In The Recruitment Of Student Athletes

by Michael Seitz  
Staff Writer

With the college bowl season finished, recruiting of high school students for 2008 now is in full swing. The question of which prized student athlete will be going to what college will generate a substantial amount of buzz in the coming weeks.

There is increasing traffic to internet sites such as Rivals.com and ESPN.com, which analyze and rate high school football and basketball athletes recruited to major college programs. Whether they're "five stars," "four stars," "three stars," or even "no stars," we all want to know.

Full coverage of the high school U.S. Army All-American Bowl Game is on Rivals.com, where the most highly-recruited high school senior athletes still undecided on what college scholarship they will accept have their every inclination and school visit updated daily.

But while the hype builds to the February 6<sup>th</sup> football signing day, we must take a step back and realize that recruiting interests are no longer limited to the college level and have extended into the high school and middle school ranks. Unlike college, where financial aid scholarships are awarded for athletic ability, the recruitment of student athletes for high school and middle school in Tennessee is strictly controlled by much different rules of the TSSAA.

Last summer the TSSAA won a dispute with Brentwood Academy in the U.S. Supreme Court over recruitment of eighth-grade students for the BA high school football team. In the decade-long lawsuit, BA had claimed that TSSAA violated their free speech rights through its recruiting rules. The Supreme Court, however, agreed with the TSSAA rules and wrote, "hard-sell tactics directed

at middle school students could lead to exploitation, distort competition between high school teams, and foster an environment in which athletics are prized more than academics."

"The BA case does not affect MBA at all," said MBA head of admissions Mr. Greg Ferrell. "When we decide whether to admit a student, we look first at academics, and then how he will contribute to the school community."

The TSSAA prohibits high schools from using "undue influence" in recruiting middle school students for their athletic programs. The 2007-08 TSSAA handbook outlines the "recruiting rule" which limits contact with student athletes that "exceed what is normal and appropriate."

An interesting exception to one of the rule's guidelines relates to "feeder schools." "Private or parochial schools may contact private schools where there is a definite feeder pattern", but "private or parochial schools may not contact students enrolled at the public schools" and "public schools may not contact students enrolled at private schools." Though the rules appear to adequately define "appropriate contact" with students, the line between recruitment for academics and athletics may not be so simple.

After his talented Whites Creek High School basketball team was upset in the semifinals of last spring's state championship tournament, their coach, Jim Nollner, was reported in the March 19<sup>th</sup> *Tennessean* to say, "We didn't win or get to the championship game, and I thought we had a chance to get there."

The reporter continued, "Nollner will have a young team next year, but the future seems bright given

that Haynes Middle School, a Whites Creek feeder school, went 19-1 this year with a promising group of eighth graders. 'Ensworth has gotten one of them, and they're trying to get another one,' Nollner said. 'But if we can get most of them, there will be a nucleus for the next four years.'"

On August 30<sup>th</sup> Nollner resigned after 16 years as head coach of Whites Creek and announced he was taking the same position at rival Antioch, which returns all of its starters to a team expected to contend for the championship.

Due in part to the tensions that arose from the initial lawsuit filed by BA, the TSSAA created a special athletic division of high schools to allow the giving of need-based financial aid. MBA is a member of this very small category of schools, Division II. The other divisions of schools are comprised of all public schools as well as certain private schools, such as David Lipscomb and CPA, which state that they do not give student financial assistance.

On a larger scale, the widespread interest in the major high school sports, football and basketball, has skyrocketed, with nationally televised games on cable and ESPN, high school fantasy leagues, and basketball "fab frosh" camps after 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

With high school sports getting so much publicity, star high school football and basketball players rarely burst onto the scene. They are tracked in grade school by national recruiters, and ratings are updated daily on multiple websites and in general and special interest sports magazines.

Interestingly, the TSSAA does not have any rules regarding the recruitment of students from grade schools to middle schools. Neither does the NCAA have rules that prevent giving college scholarship offers to junior high students. While the NCAA strictly controls high school student recruiting, it allows unlimited contact between junior school students and college athletic departments. In fact, multiple 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students nationally have received major college basketball scholarship offers in the past several years.

So, as the February football signing day approaches, it is ironic that high school seniors will not be the only ones deciding which colleges to play for. Several eighth-grade basketballers across the country will be making verbal commitments to accept scholarship offers to Division I colleges before even deciding what high school they will attend.

## Ben Bartholomew Receives The Spotlight

by Alex Apple  
Staff Writer

Throughout Ben Bartholomew's time at MBA, he has been a consistent leader on the football team, wrestling team, track team, and in life.

When asked about Ben's leadership on the football team, Coach McGugin responded, "Ben led in every way possible. His work ethic, his performance, and his words all set an example for every player on our team. Ben's team-first attitude is exactly what MBA football is all about. He never came off the field, as he excelled in all three phases of the game (offense, defense, and special teams). Ben is a special young man. His leadership has helped build a foundation for our football program that will last for a long time."

To get such praise from a coach who just had a state championship team is very special. I asked Ben several questions about his time at MBA and his future.

Alex: What was the biggest factor enabling the football team to have such great success this year?

Ben: The leadership on the team and the team's closeness enabled the team to build a very important trust.

Alex: What was the biggest reason that you decided to go to UT to play football next year?

Ben: The atmosphere and their rich tradition were the biggest factors.

Alex: What is the one thing that you have done that has turned you into such a great football player? Working out or studying film or long practice? What has made you so successful?

Ben: Well, I believe that my strong effort in the weight room and in practice has made me very successful, but I would not have been able to accomplish anything without my coaches and the ability that God has blessed me with.

Alex: Describe yourself in one way.  
Ben: Christian

Ben's great character is evident, and he lives to serve God in everything he does. His defensive coordinator, Coach Elliot, also had enormous praise for Ben, saying: "Having Ben in the middle of the defense was very important to our defense. His versatility in defending rushing plays as well as pass plays allowed us to be multi-dimensional. Ben could help 'stuff' runs up the middle, and then he was fast enough to match a running back or wide receiver on a pass play."

Ben will obviously be missed because of what he is able to do on the football field, but also because he is a person of great character, and he has a great future ahead of him at the University of Tennessee.

## Fine Arts Are Always Fine At MBA

by Bennett Davidson  
Staff Writer

New events are percolating in the imaginative studios of the Art Department. According to Mr. Womack, students are currently preparing works to be submitted to the National Scholastic Art Competition at Cheekwood. Every year MBA students receive high honors for their artistic creations. Art lovers should also check out the Gibbs Room in the Davis building; a new group of beautiful paintings from Cheekwood have been put on display for your viewing pleasure.

There is also another play coming soon! Mr. Morrison is directing Friedrich Dürrenmatt's *The Visit*, and it is going to be a blast. The play is a dark tragicomedy; it will make you laugh, and then, at the snap of a finger, turn all the fun into a brooding mess of murder and conspiracy. The play has a small set and intricate lighting effects; the movement of the ensemble will help provide somber feelings in this Brechtian-style play.

Garrett Anglin magnificently plays Alfred III, the primary character.

Ill is a very popular member of the suffering, weary town of Guellen (which is German for *excrement*). When Ill was younger, he impregnated his girlfriend, Clarie Wascher, and she was forced to flee the town out of shame. Later in life, she comes back to the town as the millionaire Claire Zachanassian and says that she will pay the poor village one million dollars if they murder Alfred III! Ill becomes increasingly suspicious of his friends as they buy many expensive goods from his store on credit; he thinks they plan to kill him so that they can obtain the million!

Other notables in the cast are Alex Spieth (from USN), Will Orman, Brendan Mayhew, Will Holt, Lewis Armistead, and Bennett Davidson. Many new faces are also included in the cast. The play features stunning original music composed by Michael Downing, Alan Schulman, Sam Tucker, and Brandon Titus. This play will definitely entertain you! And remember, it is free for students. *The Visit* will run from February 21st through 24th.



## Battle of the Millies: Part II (The Conclusion)

by Alan Schulman and Michael Downing  
Entertainment Editors

Some of you may remember from our last issue that St. Cecilia was making the bold move to perform the musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, despite Harpeth Hall's early production of the very same play. Well... both are now over and the results are in!

As stated in our review of Harpeth Hall's production, we thought the school's performance was fantastic. Besides some minor punctuation problems, every aspect of the play was virtually perfect.

Therefore, when we ventured to St. Cecilia to watch their rendition, we had high hopes. Unfortunately, the predictions from our insider in the last issue turned out to be pretty accurate.

From overture to finale, the show was a disappointment. The band was rhythmically, uh, lacking, the choreography was muddled, and the actors were relatively unconvincing.

The lead role of Millie, though no Stephanie Rothenberg, was the MVP

of the performance. Her vocals were strong, but she just could not convince us of her role. It seems as though she lacked the necessary emotion.

Another major flaw (though we can't really blame the cast for it) was that several of the leads were ill. By the end of the show, the male lead (a paid professional), Jimmy, had completely lost his voice, throwing off all harmony between characters. Trevor Graden suffered similar issues. Thankfully, the actual acting done by the professionals was stellar, but a salient fact remains: in a musical you need people who can sing.

Perhaps this point of view was formed with some sort of bias, simply because any performance following Harpeth Hall's would be judged with an incredibly critical eye, to say the least. Nevertheless, the frequent bellows of feedback from the sound system and the dispassionate acting performances were inexcusable, regardless of which act St. Cecilia followed.



Marissa Parkes as Dorothy

## Beyond the Hill: It's (not so) Comcastic!

by Aaron Lutkowitz  
Staff Editor

Comcast aired a few ads several months ago using a symbolically slow turtle to contrast DSL with the high-speed internet of Comcast, followed by the blinking and colorful "It's Comcastic" slogan.

Unfortunately, for Comcast to create the hares to outpace these turtles, they have disrupted "net neutrality." Net neutrality simply means that the internet service provider (i.e. Comcast) cannot discriminate the speed and content allowed to its customers.

A *Washington Post* editorial asks, "Will we reinstate net neutrality and keep the internet free? Or will we let it die at the hands of network owners itching to become content gatekeepers?"

Over the past few years, America has chosen the latter. In 2005 the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) eliminated the rules and regulations that continued net neutrality, and since then, we have seen the beginning of the end of net neutrality. In addition to Comcast, AT&T and Verizon have also stopped applying net neutrality to millions of their customers.

The major problem with losing net neutrality is that content is blocked by internet service providers and telephone companies. As a result, freedom of speech, a constitutional right, is denied. A *Seattle Times* editorial demands that, "Comcast, Verizon, and AT&T...need to disclose exactly how

they decide to restrict the freedom of expression of hundreds of millions of Americans....As consumers, investors and citizens, we have a right to know." For example, if AT&T wanted to sponsor an online auction, they might block eBay. This not only limits freedom of expression but also undermines the purpose of the Internet - a global network to share digital files and ideas.

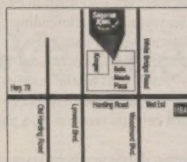
Another serious implication for this new system is unequal treatment for consumers through new, expensive online "tolls." Someone who wants faster

comcast

internet has to pay an extra fee, a "toll"; those who cannot afford the extra cost have to wait for slower, busier connections. The *San Francisco Chronicle* posits, "Charging tolls on the internet would give phone and cable companies too much power over the World Wide Web, stifling innovation and creating a system that could allow a few companies to manipulate what kind of content is delivered over the internet."

Some political action has been taken in support of net neutrality. Online groups, such as "Save the Internet," rally to advance "toward a people-powered web." Presidential candidates, in particular Barack Obama, have supported net neutrality openly. In Tennessee, a slew of TV ad campaigns for "Keep it Local Tennessee" have especially attacked AT&T. The loss of net neutrality has serious implications for all of us.

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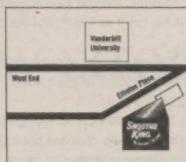


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## Successful Winter Math Competitions

by Will Henry  
Staff Writer

Each month, beginning last November, the top students from over ten different schools, both public and private, convene at a specified location for the Nashville Interscholastic Mathematics League.

A typical competition begins with the arrival of the students. The students, armed with a calculator, pencils, and their knowledge, travel to their specified room to take a forty-five minute, twenty multiple choice test. Some of these tests allow a calculator for only the first section.

Following the test's conclusion, students enjoy a nice array of food: Doritos, off-brand cookies, and some knock-off soda. After a little waiting, the scores are announced.

In the November chapter of the competition, the top five finishes were announced. In Algebra I Zachary Chen placed 5<sup>th</sup>; in Algebra II, Jichao Deng placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, while Carter Callaway, Aaron Lutkowitz, and Paul Van Pernis tied for

5<sup>th</sup>; in Pre-Calculus, Rahul Sastry placed 1<sup>st</sup>; in Calculus, Krzysztof Zienkiewicz placed 1<sup>st</sup>, and in Statistics, Michael Seitz placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Hershel Mehta took 5<sup>th</sup>.

In the December competition, team scores from both competitions were combined to determine each team's standings. In each division, MBA was in the top three, currently first in Algebra II, Statistics, and Calculus; second in Pre-Calculus, and third in Algebra I and Geometry.

Top individual scores in the divisions came in as follows: Hunter Tidwell placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tom Bu placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Algebra I; Zachary Chen placed 5<sup>th</sup> in Geometry; Jichao Deng placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Algebra II; Rahul Sastry placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Pre-Calculus; Austin Branstetter placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Calculus; Will Henry placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Statistics.

In other news, results from the National Math Exam (AMC 8) came in over the holiday as follows:

Eighth-graders Hunter Tidwell and Zach Chen placed first, correctly answering 22 out of 25 questions on the AMC(8) Exam, while Daniel Mace, Tom Bu and Andrew Cho correctly answered 20 or more.



## Dr. Clark and Chunbum Spend A Minute Talking About the Astronomy Club

by Chunbum Park  
Staff Writer

The Astronomy Club is voluntary and meets at announced intervals. It holds voluntary outings to watch the sky. The president of the Astronomy Club is Elliott Sutter. Dr. Clark, MBA physics teacher, is the club sponsor, and he spent a few minutes chatting with me about the club.

Chunbum Park: What's the club like?

Dr. Clark: There was one outing last year, to Henry Horton State Park near Murfreesboro. The sky is dark enough there for us to see the Milky Way Galaxy. However, we were kicked out almost immediately because the camp ground was closed for the season. Undaunted, we relocated to Cedars of Lebanon State Park and set up camp there - a late start on the outing. It was a clear night, so we astronomers could find plenty of objects to view. We also had a camp fire and roasted hot dogs.

C. P.: What's it like to look at astronomical objects directly through a telescope?

Dr. C.: It is interesting for people who haven't done it before. There's something special about seeing it with your own eyes. The light comes from the object itself (e.g. Jupiter/Saturn), having traveled across many miles or even light years of space. And that same light from the object is entering your eyes. It's different from looking at the celestial objects printed on paper or displayed on a computer screen.

C.P.: How good are our telescopes?

Dr. C.: They are very good. Some people get disappointed because they expect to see something similar to the images from the Hubble telescope. You can't see anything like that looking through an eyepiece because your eyes are not sensitive enough.

This telescope (currently sheltered in Dr. Clark's classroom) will be a secondary unit at the observatory we're building currently. We got the laptop to control it a week or two ago. We'll start testing this new machine second semester.

The optics for this telescope are more suitable for taking images of the moon and planets instead of the deep-sky objects. You will be able to easily see the Great Red Spot on Jupiter, the four biggest moons of Jupiter that Galileo discovered in 1600s, and the rings of Saturn, among other things.

With the main telescope at the observatory, all sorts of activities will be possible. We could do asteroid tracking if there's student interest in it. The telescope is completely computerized, so it can track anything in the sky. The imaging capabilities of the main observatory scope will be very sophisticated, both from a hardware and software point of view.

C. P.: Is there any fun or interesting astronomical fact that you would like the readers to think about?

Dr. C.: How about this: besides the sun and the moon, which heavenly object is typically the brightest object in the sky? Most people are surprised to find out that it is Venus.

## Sophomores Stay Active During the Break

by Daniel White  
Staff Writer

As Winter Break comes to a close, the sophomores have been actively involved athletically, academically, and socially. With the majority of the tenth-graders supporting the calendar change, they kicked back and relaxed over the break.

While some stayed home, others such as William Tanner went to Turks and Caicos, and Morgan Cram went to the Bahamas.

Also, Richard Wall had a great Christmas because he got a truck. Athletically, the MBA climbing team placed 5th overall in a competition at Climb Nashville in which there were 102 competitors representing many different schools. Sophomores Chris Adkins, Matt Bracy, and Andrew D'Aquila all competed for the Big Red, and Chris placed 3rd overall. Their penultimate competition will be on January 12 at Climb Nashville.

## Alan and Michael Go to the Movies: Holiday Edition!

by Alan Schulman and Michael Downing  
Entertainment Editors

*Juno*- Despite low production quality in both cinematography and music production, *Juno* appeals to the high school teenager's sense of humor, while still delivering a plot line that maintains interest. Brilliant acting from those relatively new to the scene as well!

*I Am Legend*- A combination of *28 Days Later* and pretty much any Will Smith movie. Though the plot line was extremely hard to believe, the acting, script, and action-packed zombie battles made up for it. Will Smith has definitely advanced as an actor.

*One Missed Call*- Upon first glance, this horror movie seems like a run of the mill rip-off of *The Ring*. However, there are in this movie loud crashes or phone rings that scare you just for the sake of scaring you. You know when a scary part is coming, and the gore in those parts doesn't fail to please. Being only PG-13 is also a plus!!

*Alien vs. Predator: Requiem*- Those who enjoy a firm plot, skilled acting, and captivating dialogue... You're in the wrong movie. AVP is all about mindless action, unnecessary violence, and an array of new ways to die. Now, don't get me wrong, this movie is extremely



New actress Ellen Page stars in *Juno*

entertaining in its own clichéd, alien-meets-predator sort of way.

*Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story*- Produced by the creators of *The 40 Year Old Virgin* and *Knocked Up*, this movie looked promising from the get-go. Though its overall plot premise is a lot less clever than the other two, the dialogue and cast make this movie virtually a non-stop laugh.

*National Treasure: Book of Secrets*- Just as good as the first, though that's not really saying much. The story told in this movie is just plain stupid. Unfortunately, Nicholas Cage had to lower his standards to do these two films, though his performance wasn't too bad. Thankfully, this film has enough action to make up for the terrible plot and keep the viewers from

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## News of the Ninth Grade

by Andrew Powell  
Staff Writer

The ninth-grade class has had a successful semester, its first in the high school. The Class of 2011 is sometimes overlooked, being the new and essentially unproven group in the high school landscape, but the class's "happenings" are not without significance.

Over the Christmas break, the class remained active away from the Hill: Nick Kohler visited London (including watching an Arsenal soccer match) and Amsterdam; Van East was treated to a surprise trip to New York; John Wyse spent his time recovering from exams followed by a daily routine of basketball practice and watching *Lost*; Carter Callaway made copious visits to Five Guys burgers in Green Hills. It appears that at least this sampling of the freshmen know how to employ their free time respectably.

Now let's move to the academic pursuits of the class. The new exam schedule has been met with varied responses. Connor Caldwell offers his personal reflections: "I liked exams before break. It let us have an actual Christmas break with nothing looming over us afterward." Overall, there are

pros and cons, but the consensus is that it is easier to relax knowing exams are behind us.

Service has been another major focus of the class, and class VP Will McCaskill keeps any and all willing volunteers busy by providing service opportunities, such as the YES toy drive sponsored by the grade, a week-long collection of gifts for underprivileged children. He is currently organizing a walk-a-thon for the spring.

Athletically, the class has quickly begun making a name for itself. The year began dramatically with the football team's completing an undefeated season. A point of interest: the team averaged one point for each minute played through the entire season! In cross country Michael Peters, in his first year on the Hill, earned all-state honors after his 13<sup>th</sup>-place finish in the state meet. For the winter season, the basketball team, made up of Russell Anderson, Paul Baker, Patrick Duffey, Van East, Jojo Guerre, John Hughart, Mason Kirkpatrick, Chase Owen, Hunter Wise, John Wyse, and Wentao Zhang, is off to solid 5-4 start and has high hopes for the remaining half of the season. The freshman wrestling team has had a strong start as well, led by Mark Simpson.

Moving on to a slightly different topic within athletics, the MBA Ultimate team includes a large number of dedicated freshmen. Led by the ever-enthusiastic Mitchell Shope, speedster Mason Foote, and high-flying Walton Macey, 16 noble freshmen play on the Ultimate JV team, which is off to a 1-0 start, after a crushing win over USN B. The future of MBA Ultimate looks bright, at least through 2011.

## King's School Students Reveal Contrasts with MBA

by Stephen Sharp and James Carling  
King's School, Australia

We consider ourselves incredibly lucky and blessed to have had the opportunity to travel overseas to Montgomery Bell Academy. Our experiences here at MBA, let alone America, have been both interesting and rewarding. We have been able to experience American school life and culture, which is very different from that of our home school, The King's School in Sydney, Australia.

One of the major differences between the two is that The King's School is a boarding school, with students boarding from years 7-12. I'm a boarder, and I spend the majority of my week at school, leaving campus only on the weekends.

We have a dining room similar to MBA, except it serves 1200 students and about 70 teachers each lunch, and 600 boarders every breakfast and dinner. The school campus is 340 acres, situated in the middle of Sydney. Much of the school campus is bush and scrub, the rest academic and sporting grounds. The school is an all-boys school, with our sister school being right next door, the Tara Anglican School for girls, and we are often involved with them in dances and sports.

The uniform is another significant difference between the two schools. The King's School has a long military tradition which the appearance of the uniform reflects. The grey coat and the navy pants with a red stripe down the side were introduced during early King's history and have stuck around over generations. The red stripe down the side

of the pants is an unusual tradition, which the Queen gave permission to the school to wear. The King's School celebrates its 175<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, and the uniform has differed only slightly throughout these years. A new tie was introduced to replace the black tie, which was a commemoration to remember Queen Elizabeth's death. The grey jacket has its own history.

Sport (or athletics as it is known at MBA) within the King's School features mainly rugby, rowing, basketball, and cricket. Other sports are football, swimming, tennis, and shooting. It has been interesting to have been involved in the football team here at MBA, especially the Friday Night Football. The main oval at King's is nothing compared to MBA's stadium.

Another major difference found between the two schools is the schedule. King's operates on a two-week schedule, with every subject being a different time each day, with the schedule restarting every fortnight. Academically, for me, the work I've seen the boys do here at MBA is very challenging, yet interesting.

So, even though in detail the schools differ considerably, the overall resemblance is unmistakable. Both are all-boys schools with remarkably successful academic and extracurricular programs. Both schools have really great boys who strive for excellence but do not lose their personality, and whose interests are wide-ranging. Each school has existed for over a century, and each school is known throughout its own country and internationally.

## Student Council Is Very Busy

by Andy McLaughlin  
Student Council President

The MBA Student Council members have been busy this winter. They ensured that the cafeteria get a new microwave. The bright, metallic red microwave should be a big hit, and the next step is for the dining service to install it.

The Student Council has been planning the school-wide poker tournament, arguably the biggest event (next to homecoming) that the Student Council hosts. It is scheduled to take place at the end of January. The Council hopes to have a record number of players this year, and, as always, prizes, drinks, and pizza, along with some outstanding head-to-head showdowns, will be provided.

Later this spring, we hope to do something that has never before been attempted by the MBA Student Council. It will attempt to get Montgomery Bell

Academy into the Krystal Hall of Fame. Warren Cook and Preston Bailey are putting this together, and we will have some details on this precedent-setting occasion in a month or so.

Also, the Student Council is trying to host the first annual Big Red Derby. It is undecided whether or not to make this race a pinewood or soapbox derby, and it will probably be held in late April or May.

Also, do not forget about the MBA Talent Show coming this spring.

Lastly, the Student Council members (mainly the senior reps) have a secret event planned to take place before spring break. It has taken hard work and is not yet finalized, but if we can put this event back on the map, the entire high school should be pleased, to say the least.

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## Rashá Shares Part 2 Of His Interview With Mayor Dean

by Rashá Harvey  
Staff Writer

If you missed the first part of my interview with Mayor Karl Dean, he said a few words about running a political campaign, his reasons behind running for mayor, and the duties of a mayor.

Mayor Dean successfully was re-elected Nashville's public defender in 1990, 1994, and 1998. Also, he was the city's Law Director under his predecessor, former mayor Bill Purcell. Currently, the Mayor has to tackle systemic issues such as the quality of public education, economic development, and homelessness.

In Part 2 of this series, Mayor Dean explains his connection to MBA, gives advice on how young people can get involved in the political process, and explains his vision for Nashville in his first term.

**Rashá:** Could you further elaborate on your connection to MBA?

**K. D.:** My son Rascoe graduated from MBA in 2006. He's now a sophomore at Sewanee, The University of the South. My wife is Anne Davis. Several members of her family attended MBA, including her uncle, brother, and father.

**R.:** How can young people get involved in the political process?

**K. D.:** To start, they can register to vote and take the time to become educated about political candidates. I had several young people actively engaged in my campaign for mayor – my son, many of his friends, and students from local colleges and high schools, including MBA. Outside of campaigns there are other opportunities. Young people can join political organizations, read the papers to stay up-to-date on political news, and make the effort to voice their opinions to their elected officials.

**R.:** What is your vision for Metro Nashville in the next four years?

**K. D.:** My No. 1 priority is improving our public schools. My vision for Nashville at the end of my first term is a city with good schools at all levels. Our streets will be safer, and we'll have more and better jobs in all parts of the city. Nashville has tremendous momentum right now, and I know that if we stay focused on these priorities we will reach new heights as a great place for families and for businesses.

## An Exchange Visit Reveals Both Similarities and Differences

by Callum Wilson, Hadley Hickson, and  
Liam Collins

The Southport School, Australia

Throughout our exchange, we Aussies (Hadley, Liam, and Callum) have had a life-changing experience that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

Thanks to our hosts, the time here at MBA couldn't have been any more enjoyable, exciting and thrilling than it has been. It's amazing how many things we could experience in America in five weeks. Hosting the three of us were Nate Smith and his family, Turner Henderson and his family, and Thompson Barr and his family. They were just fabulous, so unselfish and so determined that our experiences were positive and varied.

We've had the opportunity to participate in every aspect of the school's and American culture, and I include Homecoming (in which our host had accompanied us with beautiful dates) and the most exhilarating football games, including the Titans and, of course, THE BIG RED MBA FOOTBALL TEAM. Also

keeping us entertained and culturally educated were ice hockey, a Kings of Leon and a Kanye West concert, Jack Daniels Distillery, Six Flags, Halloween, The Country Music Hall of Fame, and we also got to chill out with Judge Paine for the day.

Most of all, though, we got to experience the American girls. What can I say?! Simply a great bunch of good-looking ladies!! And how could I forget the food? We've never eaten so much Mexican and grease in our whole lives than what we've eaten on our exchange.

This exchange has been a great experience. We've made great friends, been to some amazing places, and seen what makes Tennessee, and the USA, such a great place. Our host families have done a magnificent job of keeping us in line while showing us the best time we could possibly ask for. All of us are really grateful to them for this opportunity and what they have given up to make this exchange happen.

Other people to be thanked are Mrs. Warner, because without her I have no doubt that this exchange would never have got off the ground, Mr Gioia and his teaching staff for letting us into their classes and giving us a taste of American

schooling. Judge Paine for showing us a great time around Nashville, and everyone we have met who has made this exchange such an experience. The boys of MBA and the girls of Harpeth Hall have really shown us some awesome American hospitality. I know that I have made friends here that I will keep for the rest of my life. This has truly been a life-changing experience, and I hope that the exchange program between TSS and MBA continues to grow stronger so that many more people can have this opportunity.

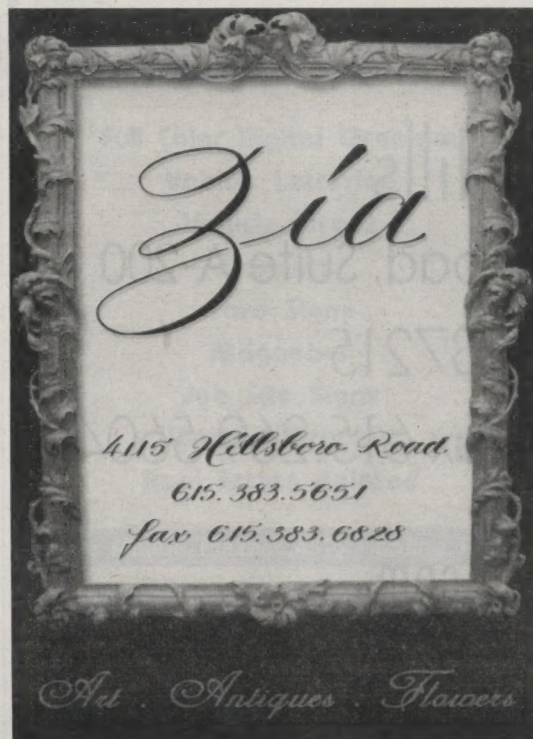
TSS and MBA are both fantastic schools and both excel in certain areas. These two excellent schools are, however, very different, not just to mention that they are in different countries. One major difference that I have noticed is that the subjects are completely different. The only similarities they share are that they both do English, Math, and a science.

Besides these, we do completely different subjects. Another key difference is the sports the schools play. You play American football, ice hockey, baseball, lacrosse, wrestling, basketball, and

soccer. We play rugby, cricket, rowing and AFL (Australian football rules). The only sports that we play that are similar are soccer and basketball which are only two sports out of the huge array of other sports.

Another difference that is obvious to us is in respect to the uniform. While we wear a uniform, MBA does not; they have a dress code, which is far better than having to wear a uniform.

Even if there are these many differences, the two schools have a number of things that are similar, such as the school spirit. I have definitely noticed at the Homecoming game that MBA is very passionate about its football and really gets in to it, while TSS is very passionate about rugby and nobody misses the 1st fifteen (which is like your varsity). The schools both also have a long and respectable history, in which both schools take a lot of pride. Another huge similarity is that both schools have beautiful campuses, which is something that is key to a great school. To sum it all up, both schools are leaders in their respective nations, and both schools are entities in which their past and present students should take some real pride.





## Off-Season Workouts Help All Sports

by Jonathan Eisen

Staff Writer

An off-season workout is like beginning to prepare for the SAT in the eighth grade—nobody enjoys it, but it sure does help. Most athletes maintain that off-season workouts are necessary for gaining the strength, endurance, and speed to remain successful throughout a grueling season.

In addition to these tangible benefits, Chris Fike, a member of the varsity hockey team, adds that the most important part of an off-season workout is the "mental side of the game."

Similarly, Daniel Sharbel, a member of the varsity basketball team, said that off-season workouts are necessary for maintaining a "mentality" and "to have the experience of recent training," adding that the workouts "get your mind right" for the season.

Alfonza Knight, a member of the state championship football team, stated that a football player must be "mentally and physically strong," and off-season workouts help an athlete gain a "mental edge" over the opponent. While off-season workouts can make an athlete stronger and faster, they also help an athlete mentally prepare for the season.

Basketball off-season workouts consist of weightlifting, running, and playing games. In the weight room, basketball players like Sharbel focus on working out their upper bodies. The athletes often condition on the track with long distance running and shorter sprints. Also, the basketball team plays "pick-up" games to "prepare for the physicality of the sport" in a practice situation. Trying out football for the first time this year, Sharbel, like most of the other basketball players, was unable to participate in the off-season training program. He admits that his play this season has suffered because of his decision. Hopefully, he and the rest of the guys will be able to turn their game around and propel the MBA basketball team to a state championship

berth.

Unlike Sharbel, Chris Fike has played only hockey in high school, allowing him to participate in all off-season training programs. Hockey off-season workouts involve work on and off the ice. On the ice the players do drills and "lots" of sprints. Most of the work off the ice is in the weight room, where the athletes focus on the lower body and core. Fike stated that these workouts have helped him "stay in hockey shape" and "not come into the season flat-footed." The impact of his year-round involvement with the sport is evident by the hockey team's early success this season.

Similar to Sharbel, Alfonza Knight plays more than one sport. Because of basketball and track, Knight, like many other football players, has only been able to participate in the summer football workouts. Football workouts consist primarily of lifting weights and running. Workouts focus on the entire body because a player "uses everything on every play." Although Knight has missed winter and spring football workouts because of other sports, he believes that this time off has allowed him to be physically and mentally strong at the end of the football season. Many other MBA athletes have taken this same approach to football, and it seems to work.

While every sport is different and, therefore, requires different off-season preparation, Daniel Sharbel insightfully states that the objective of any off-season program is "to get better in as little time as possible," which requires an intense work ethic in the weight room and on the court, rink, or field. However, he also notes that "rest is important to getting the work done." During the off season, therefore, an athlete must work hard enough to gain a physical and mental advantage over his opponents but also rest hard enough to enhance the workouts and to recover from the previous season.

## Michaelhouse and MBA Are Not Too Dissimilar

by Gareth St.Clair and Andrew King

Michaelhouse School

The great thing about switching schools for a few weeks is the differences and similarities which can be noted. Some of the new ways we saw we would not mind putting in place at Michaelhouse; to others, though, it probably would take a while to adjust.

We, Gareth and Andrew, have found that the MBA boys receive a lot of work compared to MHS boys, but, again a distinction between the schools, MBA students have study halls during school to complete most of their work, whereas MHS boys have to do all their homework in the evenings after supper.

At MBA, the subjects have more specific classifications, e.g. algebra, geometry, physics and chemistry, whereas at MHS, the classes would just be Math (both Algebra & Geometry together) and Science (both Physics & Chemistry together).

It makes a huge difference being able to drive at age sixteen, as you may here, as opposed to age eighteen in South Africa. Being able to drive to school, sports games, and the like creates much more freedom for the boys and makes them more independent at the same time. Because we live at school at MHS and we can only drive when we are seniors, it makes a huge impact on our studying capabilities for the end of year examinations.

We have found that the food in America is very different from that in South Africa. People in America tend to eat a lot more fast food, and there are also many more restaurants in America. We have also seen that people do not eat as many vegetables and fruits as in South Africa.

The main characteristic that we have noticed about people in Nashville is that everyone is very friendly and glad to meet someone new, as well as to find out about their lives and the country from

which they come.

The social life is different here in Nashville in comparison with South Africa, with the main difference being that we go to a full boarding school and MBA is day school. Being at MBA allows much more time with family, and there is always an opportunity to go have a milkshake with friends or go to a friend's house. At a boarding school you are surrounded by friends 24/7, and this means that you will always be busy playing sport, relaxing, or talking with friends. The afternoon activities at MBA are your specific sport, and then you will go home to your family. At MHS, if you do not have a sport on a particular afternoon, you will watch a movie with friends or go play rugby or soccer on the fields. There is constant activity and a great outdoor environment. On weekends we will go home, and then we will be able to spend time with family, go to the beach, go to a rugby match (these are big social events), or just go to a friend's house.

Here in Nashville it seems that football has become a way of life and that it is a very important activity in which a school wants to excel. At MHS we as a school are rated with other schools with our rugby performances, as well as with the main other sports, cricket and field hockey. Our games are held on Saturdays, and there are multiple teams in every age group ranging from A to E teams. So, on Saturdays there is a full day of sports fixtures, and this is a day where parents and friends come to watch the sporting activities. It is a great day to be involved.

In conclusion our lifestyles are similar in respect to sport, academics, and social life. It has been a great opportunity to visit a school on another continent and to live a different lifestyle from that of our own. It is a great experience that we will treasure in our memories for years to come.

## MBA Word Wizards Sweep Vocabulary Championships

by Corey Metzman

Staff Writer

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, MBA Juniors Brian Swenson and Edward Powell emerged from a group of 95 local vocabulary mavens to claim first and second place, respectively, in the Nashville Qualifier for the National Vocabulary Championship (NVC). The NVC has informed MBA that this accomplishment signifies the first time in which two students from the same high school have won first and second place in a qualifying competition.

Simply reaching the city-

qualifier formed a feat in itself. Swenson and Powell had previously scored the highest on the pre-qualifying written test given to energetic MBA students on a frosty October morning. Overall, these MBA juniors claimed the top two spots out of an original group of over 16,000 Nashville teens that took their high schools' pre-qualifying tests.

Sponsored by the Game Show Network (GSN), Comcast, and Princeton Review, the National Vocabulary Championship seeks to close disparities in access to higher education by funding scholarship and motivating students to

cont. on p. 10

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## The Junior Class Spends Its Holiday Variously

by Fadi Poulos  
Staff Writer

The junior class is starting the second half of the year and is looking forward to the college application process, as well as finishing up the junior year and receiving the long awaited title of seniors.

However, I've decided to drift away a little bit from the future and take a look at what went on over Winter Break by focusing on some of the travels that the juniors embarked on and gifts that they received during Christmas.

To begin things, Hicks Woolwine enjoyed Nashville's chilly winter and received a Magellan GPS for his car, an item he will treasure and which will prove valuable as he travels from Belle Meade to school.

Houston Oldham had quite a different winter break. He traveled to Vail, Colorado for some serious altitude sickness, then went to Orlando for a soccer tournament, and finally departed to St. George's for a nice, wintry tan. This article was written on Houston's brand new black Mac Book that he received for Christmas.

Joining Houston in Vail was Will Overton, who had a great time celebrating his birthday and got an Xbox 360 for Christmas.

Sam Page believes the bears are who he thought they were. Nick Concepcion got a Voyager and was happy to see Ohio State get to the BCS National Championship, but then cried when they were blown out by yet another SEC team. Ian visited his hometown, New Orleans, and got an iPod, which was something that he'd been wanting for a while.

Will Holt quite possibly had one of the most intriguing travels, as he went sight-seeing on a boat around the tip of South America near Antarctica. He also wanted to add that Coleman Breland's mother made him some delicious pumpkin bread baked with love.

Hooper went skiing in Wyoming and received a Laptop and an Xbox 360.

Joseph Sloan also had an interesting winter, as he went to Amsterdam, Germany. Brian Swenson, fellow writer on the staff, got Guitar Hero III, but in his e-mail he used several expletives to display his excitement.

Bradford didn't do much, but he "bowe'd" it up with Wade and me during exams, which rocked as the Rams defeated the Kansas City Chiefs (Bowes).

Karl Mecklenborg and I visited Vanderbilt and then had lunch at Schlitzky's, a necessary highlight of my and Karl's respective breaks.

Will Andrews went skiing and got an Xbox 360, which was pretty neat. He also had the most amazing one-handed catch during a game of pick-up football in a reception from QB Seneca Wallace.

While everyone was able to leave the house at one point or another it seems one person did not. In a startling report from Charlie Watkins, and I quote, "There has been a lot of talk that Logan Lechleiter, who just so happened to travel all over the Land of Cyrodil, including fantastic towns like the Imperial City, Bruma, and even Cheydhah!!!!!!!" What's depressing is that these cities aren't real; rather, they are major cities in a game called *The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion*. Yet another winter break gone to waste by a one of our own.

Last but not least, Nicholas Caprioli received a Black Berry 8830 World Edition, which means he can do anything he wants on the phone, e.g. access the internet and chat, no matter where he is in the world. This gift also means that no matter where Nick is in the world, the junior class will still be able to receive its weekly e-mail from him.

Well, that wasn't everyone but it was a good portion of the junior class. This article shows that the juniors put their extended break to good use.

## MLK March: We All Can Play A

### Part On January 21<sup>st</sup>

by Rashá Harvey  
Staff Writer

*"Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year. It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow. Today is the seed time, now are the hours of work, and tomorrow comes the harvest and the plowtime."*

Noted philosopher W.E.B. DuBois emphasized America's unique ability to serve her fellow citizens and the world.

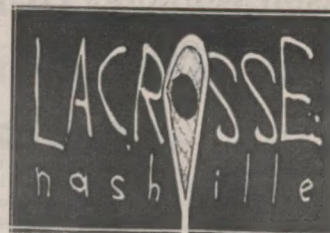
During the MLK holiday, we, the MBA community, can contribute to society by participating in the citywide MLK March. We are never too young to

realize the impact of service. At MBA, we believe in our creed *Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete*, regardless of our diverse backgrounds.

This creed makes our community flourish. On January 21<sup>st</sup> each of us can play a larger role by engaging with the residents of the communities surrounding our campus. Our partner in this great effort is Pearl-Cohn Magnet High School.

So far, over 40 students, faculty, and staff have made the commitment to march. Dr. King's dream is a step closer to being reality. We will leave MBA at 8:30 A.M. and will return no later than 12:00 P.M.

Please email Rashá Harvey if you want to be added to the list of fellow marchers. I truly believe that a spirit of progress is sweeping our campus. I hope you all will march with us.



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## Vocabulary Championship

cont. from p. 9

improve their vocabularies.

While at first glance simply another competition tailored to provide an outlet for whiz kids to showcase their intellectual fervor and prolix abilities, the qualifying competition was conducted in a game-show format, complete with a live host, fully rigged GSN touch-screen podiums, and the palpable tension that accompanies any opportunity to win five grand.

Indeed, Swenson took home \$5000 in scholarship money plus a wide array of educational supplements, including a full electronic subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica and other scholastic resources from the Princeton Review. Most importantly, Swenson earned a place in the televised National Championships in Los Angeles on March 10, only one of 50 students nation-wide to do so. Powell garnered similar awards, sans the scholarship, but went home with significant pride as well.

MBA faculty sponsor Ana Anderson attributes a significant factor in Swenson's and Powell's successes to MBA's rigorous language program and emphasis on vocabulary. She commented, "Since neither Brian nor Edward spent much time studying for the competition itself, the fact that they did so well speaks to the value of the MBA education."

Swenson's and Powell's verbal prowess, however, stems also from their own motivation and academic strength, as Anderson affirms, "They didn't win

because they crammed a bunch of big words into their minds the week before; they won because they simply *knew* most of the words, either because they'd learned them before, encountered them in their reading, or knew how to figure out their meaning through root words."

Yet, Brian and Edward's victories were far from easy. Upon arriving at the Nashville School of the Arts, they suffered a mandated sequestering in the gymnasium where GSN officials briefed them on the regulations of the qualifier and then attempted (unsuccessfully) to satiate the 95 teens' hunger with bribes of stale pizza and Hi-C juice boxes.

After waiting for nearly 2 hours before the first round, Swenson and Powell both placed first in their initial heats, besting nine other hopeful verbal acrobats in order to advance to the second round. From these preliminary victories, they continued to dominate with their verbal verve, eventually becoming the final two contestants remaining. In the final round, the two MBA word wizards traded correct answers for 10 sudden-death rounds, before Swenson correctly named "edacious" as the synonym of the word "voracious," according to the NVC press release.

*The Bell Ringer* joins John Gauder, vice-president of Comcast Nashville, in hoping for the best for Swenson in March: "We congratulate Brian on an outstanding achievement here in Nashville and wish him the best of luck



# Together: A Bilingual Review

by Joshua Liang  
Staff Writer

I recently started watching this Chinese movie not expecting much out of it. As the movie progressed, however, I realized just how meaningful it truly is.

It tells the story of a father's love for his son and shows how far he is willing to go to see his son succeed.

In this movie, Liu Cheng devotes his life to seeing his son Xiao Chun succeed in his dream of becoming a concert violinist. Even though Liu Cheng is not Xiao Chun's biological father, his love for Xiao Chun is true and genuine, as if he were his real son. Liu Cheng realizes that his son will never achieve his goal unless they move to a large city like Beijing and find a professional teacher to mentor Xiao Chun. As a result, the pair moves to Beijing. The first teacher they find is hesitant about taking Chun as a student. However, after seeing Xiao Chun play, he realizes the extent of Xiao Chun's talent and immediately agrees to teach him.

Several weeks later, Liu Cheng, who is forced to work as a janitor, sees a concert violinist performing while he is on duty. Obviously impressed, Liu Cheng decides to make this violinist's teacher Xiao Chun's teacher, hoping to further help Xiao Chun's violin skills develop. This teacher is also hesitant at first about accepting Xiao Chun; however, once Liu Cheng tells him the inspirational story that he and his son have endured, the teacher is forced to tears and agrees to teach Xiao Chun.

From this movie, one can really feel the depth of Liu Cheng's affection for his son, a feat that few other movies can boast. It is also surprisingly interesting and engaging. I strongly recommend all of you to rent and watch this movie for its entertainment value and its moral values (available in the MBA Library!).

## 《和你在一起》读后感

我最近看的一个电影《和你在一起》很有意思。这个电影讲爸爸对儿子的爱。这个电影不但很有意思，而且演得非常好。

在这部电影中，我最喜欢的人物是刘成。刘成是小春的爸爸。虽然他不是小春的亲爸爸，他还是对小春很有感情。可以说，他对小春的爱比一般的爸爸对儿子的爱大好几倍。因为他一心一意想要小春成功，所以他费了很大的力气让小春学小提琴。

比如说，刘成和小春从小城镇搬到北京这个大城市因为爸爸想给小春找一个好老师，认认真真地教小春拉小提琴。他们不得不住在公共浴室里。他们找到的第一个老师是姜老师。他们第一次见面的时候，姜老师对他们并不感兴趣，可是他一听小春拉小提琴，他就收小春做他的学生了，因为他知道小春很有天赋。

几个星期以后，刘成在工作的时候在音乐厅看见一个人表演拉小提琴。他觉得很不错，就想让这个小伙子当小春的老师。在厕所里他问了老师当小春的老师。可是像第一个老师一样，姜老师也不感兴趣。刘成就去了姜老师的家，给他讲他和小春的故事。姜老师很感动，连眼泪都留出来了！这个时候，他当然收了小春。

从电影中我们可以看到刘成对小春的爱象大海一样深。有两次老师不想收小春，但是这两次刘成都没有放弃努力。看完这个电影以后，我真的很羡慕世界上有一个这么好的爸爸。我还没有看过很多的电影讲爸爸对儿子的爱讲得这么清楚和感人。我建议谁要是还没看过这个电影，要赶快借来看，不然的话，你会后悔的！



# Señora Lanigan Discusses Her Perceptions of MBA

by Alvin Kim  
Staff Writer

Señora Lanigan, MBA's excellent Spanish teacher, recently retired from Metro schools and now teaches two classes at MBA. She took time from her busy schedule to answer some questions from *The Bell Ringer* about how she views her new school in relation to previous schools.

*The Bell Ringer:* Does teaching at an all-boys school change how you teach your class after teaching co-ed classes before? If so, how?

Señora Lanigan: I enjoy teaching here. I believe the most obvious difference is class size more than having girls and boys in the same class. Since I have spent most of my career in public schools, my classes often contained more than 30 students. Even AP classes would have more than 20. For me as a teacher it means that I can know each student and his progress. No one can sit quietly in class and "get lost." Also, I can devote more time to individual help, to planning, and to grading. I can give both levels more writing and speaking opportunities because grading them is not an overwhelming task. The focus is much more on academics and less on the girl beside them here than at comprehensive high schools where I have taught in the past.

*The Bell Ringer:* Do you feel the language lab helps in your teaching here at MBA?

Señora Lanigan: The language lab is awesome! Yes, I had the opportunity to have an excellent language lab at Hume-Fogg. The lab here, however, surpasses it. The lab gives the opportunity to provide regular opportunities for listening and speaking exercises and gives us the opportunity to maintain an oral and/or video portfolio of each student's work. It is a tool that takes the Spanish class much closer to total immersion and lets us develop skills and abilities that would be impossible without the language lab. It also gives us the opportunity to connect to the larger Spanish-speaking world.

*The Bell Ringer:* Are you able to move faster in your teaching here at MBA?

Señora Lanigan: It is definitely obvious

that the students have already learned another language, here specifically Latin. It is a proven fact that it is easier to learn the next language. If one of the Spanish students chooses to learn another language after Spanish, it will be easier than the Spanish was, etc. This is the phenomenon behind the multilingual cultures in Europe. I find I can relate to what they already know about language and in an instant clear up any ambiguities. For example, when I recently discussed subjunctive mood with the Spanish II class, the students already understood the concept from the Latin.

*The Bell Ringer:* In general, how does your teaching at MBA differ from when you taught at Metro Schools?

Señora Lanigan: I taught at a wonderful high school in Metro, Hume-Fogg. It is a public school teacher's dream school. I feel extremely fortunate to have taught at Hume-Fogg, and I feel

fortunate to have the opportunity to work part-time here at MBA. At Hume-Fogg I taught upper levels which required success on high-stakes tests. Here the opportunity to teach rather than have to worry about securing facilities or materials or to have to do extensive paperwork is probably the greatest difference. Both institutions focus on academic success, but MBA has the resources to better support this. Also, MBA is not affected by what the teacher is told is best for all comprehensive high schools.

*The Bell Ringer:* Any final comments on your experience at MBA?

Señora Lanigan: I enjoy the weekly assemblies. MBA celebrates all facets of education, not just the sports achievements which are so often the focus in comprehensive high schools. I admire the tradition of presenting trophies to the head master and the school. Most of all, though, I am delighted as a career foreign language teacher to see the interest and support of languages at MBA. People can learn every other discipline better after learning a second language. MBA recognizes and supports this language foundation.



Sra. Lanigan at her new school



# Junior Chunbum Park Reports On Four Student-Led Organizations

by Chunbum Park  
Staff Writer

MBA's Student-Led Organizations (SLO's) provide opportunities for learning which the classroom, athletics, and the arts often lack the time or purpose to do. As for myself, I have become involved with the Astronomy Club, History Club, our newspaper, Science Olympiad, and Environment.

For this article I talked to Tom Wall, the president of the History Club, Mason Braswell, the president of the Government Club, Dr. Marro, the head coach of the Science Olympiad B Division, and Dr. Clark, the sponsor for the Astronomy Club.

I interviewed Tom first, and his enthusiasm for the **History Club** provided a lot of information. Here is that interview:

**Chunbum Park:** What are some things that the History Club planned to do this year?

**Tom Wall:** We have had several trips – a field trip to the Battle of Franklin on November 30<sup>th</sup> including several other sites like the confederate lines and Carton House, to commemorate the Civil War. We had the annual Battle of Nashville tour around Christmas break, on December 16<sup>th</sup>, during exams. This semester we're going to do our annual History Club movie seminar night (students are invited to watch a historical movie and discuss the elements of leadership displayed within the movie). We'll try to get a good crowd there.

**C. P.** The history club seems to have a lot in common with other clubs because history is such an extensive subject. Are there any plans to get together with other clubs on some of your events?

**T. W.:** We might cooperate with the film club to get historical videos, get together with Government Club and the African-American Studies Club to commemorate civil rights on MLK day, and other such joint efforts.

**C. P.** The History Club does not just cover the Civil War, does it? Don't the members also visit other areas, like the State Museum, the Hermitage of Andrew Jackson, and also investigate Korean history – in fact, aren't you doing a Power Point on that topic with Mr. Sharbel?

**T. W.:** The History Club is open to any ideas. We can simply have open discussions if the students want to have them.

**C. P.:** Is funding ever an issue?

**T. W.:** No. We had the Mother's Club back us up with some of the Spaghetti Supper money. We have many insiders to help us out. For instance, I worked at the Parthenon as a tour guide, so I can get

people in for a discount – probably.

**C. P.:** Will you describe to us some of the trips the club organized last year?

**T. W.:** The last trip we had was the trip to Mansker's Station – it didn't work because of lack of interest. A couple of people went to the City Cemetery tour.

**C. P.:** Any last comments?

**T. W.:** The History Club's activities are different from just reading a book – we go on field trips, we occasionally have guest speakers about issues like Nashville's history. It's a great club, and you don't need to be a member to share our events. If you have interests that you want to carry out through this club, then e-mail me [Tom Wall], Mr. Sharbel, or Dr. Bailey.

**The Government Club** is another very active, student-led organization on campus. Mason Braswell is the current president. Here, with Mason's input, is a list of the main points about the Government Club: The Government Club recently ratified its constitution, which states that its "purpose is to inform and lead the student body in education about the current events.... problems [that we] currently [confront]... domestically and internationally." We have regular meetings – at least one after school a month, and maybe an officers' meeting every two weeks.

The Government Club hosted several events last year – including the panel discussion on the Middle East and whether or not Iraq's population is compatible with democracy. In that discussion, we invited someone from the Meharry Institute, a professor from MTSU, and a local Rabbi. Colonel Sharbel shared his opinion based on his past experiences (as a SEALE officer). Jamie Berk moderated the forum. We also had Jim Cooper, now in the House of Representatives. We went to a local jail and saw the effect that our system had on race. There were many kids our age, and we could compare the number of African Americans with the number of white Americans incarcerated there.

This year, we're currently in our planning stages – we're trying to get together with the African-American Studies clubs with a focus on race. We're going to encourage students' understanding of the race issue. We'll host the MLK march. We have invited to Assembly Star Martin, who leads the National Reality tours to talk about the continuing effects of the many years of prejudiced policies. At lunch we'll have panels in the Gibbs room and talk about how well MBA does with its inclusion of minorities. We plan to see politically charged films, and we're planning a trip to the capital.

We have good attendance and

plenty of funding. We had a donut sale that raised a good amount of money. We're thinking about a dance to subsidize our costs for our events on the MLK day.

**The Science Olympiad** is a nationwide competition consisting of science-related events. The competition divides into the regional, state, and the national levels. The top three teams from the regional advance to the state level, from which only one team advances to the national level. The Big Red Army offers voluntary, weekly meetings to work on projects like Mars – Remote Sensing, Mystery Architecture, Robot Rumble, and the Boomilever.

Physics teacher Dr. Marro heads MBA's Science Olympiad squad. Here is an interview Chunbum had with him.

**C. P.:** MBA has a high school and a junior school division – which do you coach?

**Dr. M.:** Dr. Dickens and I coach both teams, but I'm officially the head coach of the Division B (junior school) and the assistant coach of the Division C (high school). It's the other way around for Dr. Dickens.

**C. P.:** How well has the Big Red Army performed in the past years?

**Dr. M.:** In the very first year five boys who wanted to do Science Olympiad competed in only six or eight events, but we took home a considerable number of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place medals. In the next year we had a full team, and we (Div C) won our region but lost in state with 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The following years went 3<sup>rd</sup> (2004), 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 1<sup>st</sup> (last year). Last year, we won 4<sup>th</sup> place in the region, but we got a by to the state competition because a different region was not able to hold their regional meet. We wound up beating Oak Ridge by 2 points. Oak Ridge is known to have won the state for a high percentage of the years. So this year we have to win for real.

**C. P.:** Is our team's success mainly due to our students and MBA's rigorous academic environment?

**Dr. M.:** I attribute the success to the students who are good. The boys are serious and willing to put in time outside of school.

**C. P.:** Do you see that commitment still?

**Dr. M.:** Unfortunately, we can't create a stable team. We can't get people on regular schedule early, so we can't better identify the best students. We still have a pretty good situation. I'd like it to be just like theater or any other non-athletic option to get students time to devote four to five hours a week to the team.

**C. P.:** How did we do at the national

tournament last year?

**Dr. M.:** That was our first national experience. Sixty teams competed there. We had a fantastic showing by Rahul Sastry and Jonathan Lundy, with 2<sup>nd</sup> place in chemistry. In other events, our rookie status was apparent. Our average ranking was 40<sup>th</sup> or 44<sup>th</sup>.

**C. P.:** What are some of the adjustments that the Big Red Army is making to adapt to the national level?

**Dr. M.:** We now have an earlier start. It's a huge difference from last year when everything was done loosely until two weeks before the regional competition. We're trying to adopt the organizational model from the speech world. In other words, individuals are assigned into different research groups in order to produce a file – study guides for different events. These files are digitalized and distributed across the web for other members of the team. Research group leaders re-assign research items and continually work on the study guides until the time of the competition. The Big Red Army will carry several containers containing copies of these study guides for their use before and between the events. When there are not enough spots, only those individuals who contributed the most to the team (which can be measured by their quality of study guide production) will go to the competition.

Since only the team advances, not the individuals, we need to put together 15 students who are willing to cover all the events and all the time slots. Versatility will be a key factor – 15 students on 23 events. All students have to be good in a wide range of areas, and this versatility will be provided with our speech model.

**C. P.:** How do other schools' preparations compare with MBA's?

**Dr. M.:** We were very close to losing the state last year – 6 points separated 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 10 points to 4<sup>th</sup> place. As far as the new teams, McCallie's performance is mirroring what we did when we started – if they're at the same pace as we are, they're only 2 years behind. Some schools have classes for Science Olympiad, some get credit after school, some have an independent budget, and some receive funding from the parents.

We have a large turnout – both teams have 30 people listed on the rosters, and the big focus this year will be on Division B because they didn't qualify last year for the state. I have a vested interest to go the nationals because it will be held at the George Washington University where I did my Ph.D. work. I could work out a few special tours if any of my buddies are still around.